

H. S. DEBNATH* & M. P. NAYAR** : A new species of
Meconopsis Vig. (Papaveraceae) from Nepal

H. S. デブナス*・M. P. ナヤール** : ネパール産
Meconopsis (ケン科) の 1 新種

While studying the specimens of *Meconopsis* from British Museum the authors came across specimens (Troth 947, 980) from Nepal which could not match with any species described so far. Taylor (An account of the genus *Meconopsis* i-x, 1-130, pl. 1-29, 1934) added modifications of the existing classification and established two subgenera *Eumeconopsis* and *Discogyne*. On the basis of habit, flower colour and pubescence, he recognized three sections *Cambricae*, *Eucathcartia* and *Polychaetia*. Among them, *Eucathcartia* comprises two series and subsection *Cumminsia* of *Polychaetia* is composed of six series. The affinity of our material is rather uncertain because the devoid of persistent dense rosette leaves prescribed the taxon for subsection *Cumminsia* under the section *Polychaetia*, the position of the flowers in the axils of the upperstem leaves or solitary flower on a leafy peduncle bring it closer to series *Primulinae* from which it differs more than 7.5 cm long tap root. But it is considered appropriate to assign the species to the series *Primulinae* close to *Meconopsis florindae* and *M. lyrata*.

The species is named after Rebecca G. Troth who collected this specimen for the first time from middle Nepal.

Meconopsis rebecca H. S. Debnath et Nayar, sp. nov.

Affinis *Meconopsis florindae*, sed radix tapeformibus, +3.5 cm longis floribus 1-4, ovario hirsuto, capsulo dense setoso differt.

Typus: Middle Nepal, south of Annapurna, above Siklis, 28°07'±01'E, ca 2600 m, 28 Aug. 1976, Troth 947 (Holotypus, BM); Ibid, Troth 980 (Paratypus, BM).

Menocarpic herbs. Taproots stout, upto 15 cm long. Stems 75-100 cm tall, slender, leafy, sparsely hairy throughout. No basal leaves. Leaves 15-25 cm long, oblong in outline, pinnatilobed to extremely pinnatipartite, giving general

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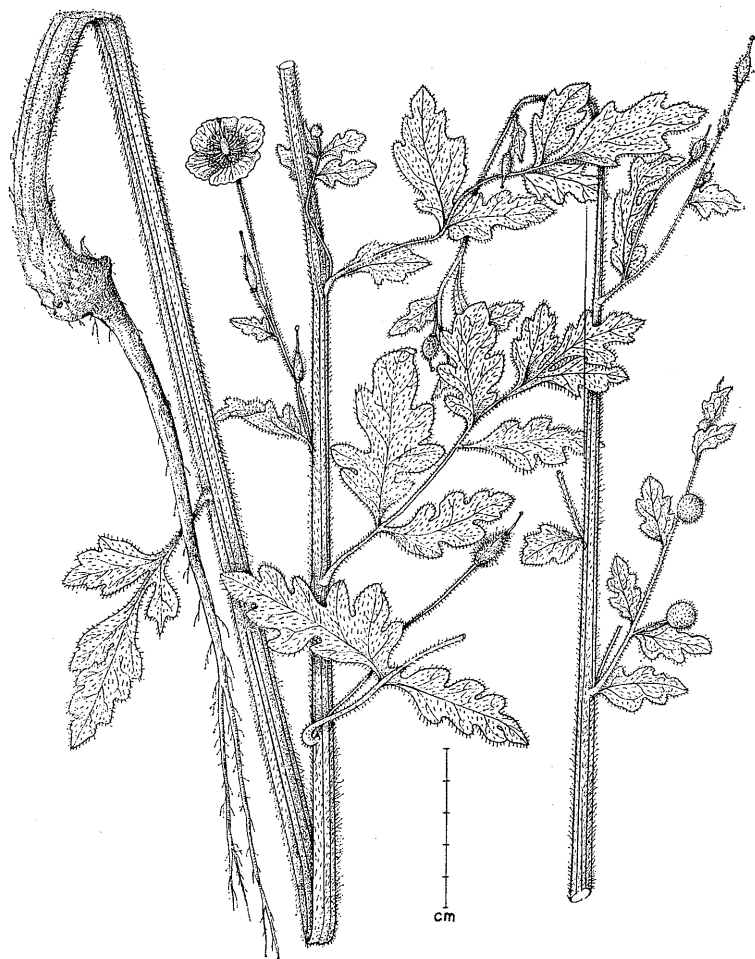


Fig. 1. *Meconopsis rebecca* H.S. Debnath et Nayar.

appearance of a compound leaves, often irregularly lobed, uppermost leaves pinnatisect, clothed with same type of hairs as on the stem, segments ovate-oblong, acute to obtuse at apex, margin entire or lobed, distance between the lobes 1-3 cm; petioles 2-8 cm long, hairy. Flowers numbering 1-4, semipendulous, arising in the axils of the leaves; pedicels attaining 3-10 cm long, slender, hairy,

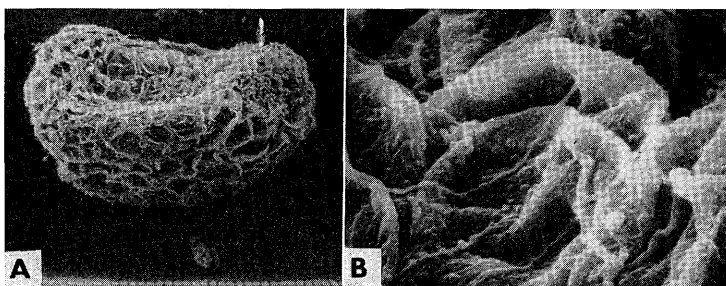


Fig. 2. Seeds of *Meconopsis rebecca*. A: $\times 600$; B: $\times 7200$.

sparingly bristly immediately under the flowers; peduncles leafy, 3-5 cm long. Petals 4-6, ovate or obovate, rounded at the apex, slightly and irregularly denticulate, 1.0-1.5 \times 1.0-1.2 cm, pale yellow. Stamens numerous; filaments filiform, 0.9-1.2 cm long, orange in colour; anthers orange, 2 mm long. Ovary oblong to ellipsoid oblong, 0.4-0.5 cm long, densely clothed with yellowish bristles; styles slender, 0.3-0.4 cm long; stigmas capitate, slightly lobed. Capsules oblong, 1.0 to 2.5 cm long, densely bristly as on the ovary. Seeds 0.8-1.0 mm long, subreniform, in SEM seed surface appearing coralloid, epidermal cells inconspicuous, with numerous beads, epidermal cell boundaries appearing folded lamellae and overlapped with each other (Figs. 1 & 2).

Distribution and habitat. Recorded from south of Annapurna, middle Nepal at an altitude 2600 m. Grows in dark, moist mixed *Rhododendron arboreum* forest. Flowering is recorded in August.

It is seen that *Meconopsis rebecca* is very closely related to *M. florindae* Kingdon-Ward but the presence of more than 3.5 cm long tap root, 1-4 numbered flowers, densely bristly ovary and capsules indicate that it is a distinct species. *M. lyrata* (Cummins & Prain) Fedde ex Prain is a related species, but it is characterized by the lack of pinnatilobed leaves and the presence of 1-4 numbered flowers, pale-yellow flowers and densely bristly ovary and capsules.

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ヒマラヤの *Meconopsis* については Taylor (1934) のモノグラフがあるが、これにはネパールの種類は、当時ネパールが鎖国であったため、残念ながら、不十分に研究されているに過ぎない。今回 BM から借用した標本のなかから、ネパール中部アンナプルナの南で採集された 1 新種を記載した。